

**§ 107.327 Compromise and settlement.**

(a) At any time before an order issued under § 107.317 or § 107.323 is referred to the Attorney General for enforcement, the respondent or the Office of Chief Counsel may propose a compromise as follows:

(1) In civil penalty cases, the respondent or Chief Counsel may offer to compromise the amount of the penalty by submitting an offer for a specific amount to the other party. An offer of compromise by the respondent shall be submitted to the Chief Counsel who may, after consultation with Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, accept or reject it.

(i) A compromise offer stays the running of any response period then outstanding.

(ii) If a compromise is agreed to by the parties, the respondent is notified in writing. Upon receipt of payment by Office of Chief Counsel, the respondent is notified in writing that acceptance of payment is in full satisfaction of the civil penalty proposed or assessed, and Office of Chief Counsel closes the case with prejudice to the respondent.

(iii) If a compromise cannot be agreed to, the respondent is notified in writing and is given 10 days or the amount of time remaining in the then outstanding response period, whichever is longer, to respond to whatever action was taken by the Office of Chief Counsel or the Administrator, RSPA.

(2) In compliance order cases, the respondent may propose a consent agreement to the Chief Counsel. If the Chief Counsel accepts the agreement, he issues an order in accordance with its terms. If the Chief Counsel rejects the agreement, he directs that the proceeding continue. An agreement submitted to the Chief Counsel must include:

(i) A statement of any allegations of fact which the respondent challenges;

(ii) The reasons why the terms of a compliance order or proposed compliance order are or would be too burdensome for the respondent, or why such terms are not supported by the record in the case;

(iii) A proposed compliance order suitable for issuance by the Chief Counsel;

(iv) An admission of all jurisdictional facts; and

(v) An express waiver of further procedural steps and all right to seek judicial review or otherwise challenge or contest the validity of the order.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a)(1) of this section, the respondent or Office of Chief Counsel may propose to settle the case. If the Chief Counsel agrees to a settlement, the respondent is notified and the case is closed without prejudice to the respondent.

[Amdt. 107-11, 48 FR 2651, Jan. 20, 1983, as amended at 50 FR 45730, Nov. 1, 1985; Amdt. 107-24, 56 FR 8621, Feb. 28, 1991; 56 FR 15510, Apr. 17, 1991; Amdt. 107-29, 58 FR 51527, Oct. 1, 1993]

**§ 107.329 Maximum penalties.**

(a) A person who knowingly violates a requirement of the Federal hazardous material transportation law, an order issued thereunder, this subchapter, subchapter C of this chapter, or an exemption issued under this subchapter applicable to the transporting of hazardous materials or the causing of them to be transported or shipped is liable for a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000 and not less than \$250 for each violation. When the violation is a continuing one, each day of the violation constitutes a separate offense.

(b) A person who knowingly violates a requirement of the Federal hazardous material transportation law, and order issued thereunder, this subchapter, subchapter C of this chapter, or an exemption issued under this subchapter applicable to the manufacture, fabrication, marking, maintenance, reconditioning, repair, or testing of a packaging or container which is represented, marked, certified or sold by that person as being qualified for use in the transportation of hazardous materials in commerce is liable for a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000 and not less than \$250 for each violation.

[Amdt. 107-24, 56 FR 8624, Feb. 28, 1991, as amended by Amdt. 107-32, 59 FR 49131, Sept. 26, 1994]

**§ 107.331 Assessment considerations.**

After finding a knowing violation under this subpart, the Office of Chief Counsel assesses a civil penalty taking the following into account:

(a) The nature and circumstances of the violation;

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- (b) The extent and gravity of the violation;
- (c) The degree of the respondent's culpability;
- (d) The respondent's prior violations;
- (e) The respondent's ability to pay;
- (f) The effect on the respondent's ability to continue in business; and
- (g) Such other matters as justice may require.

[Amdt. 107-11, 48 FR 2651, Jan. 20, 1983, as amended by Amdt. 107-30, 58 FR 50500, Sept. 27, 1993; Amdt. 107-38, 61 FR 21100, May 9, 1996]

#### CRIMINAL PENALTIES

### § 107.333 Criminal penalties generally.

A person who knowingly violates § 171.2(g) or willfully violates a provision of the Federal hazardous material transportation law or an order or regulation issued thereunder shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.

[Amdt. 107-11, 48 FR 2651, Jan. 20, 1983, as amended by Amdt. 107-32, 59 FR 49131, Sept. 26, 1994]

### § 107.335 Referral for prosecution.

If the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety becomes aware of a possible willful violation of the Federal hazardous material transportation law, this subchapter, subchapter C of this chapter, or any exemption, or order issued thereunder, for which the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety exercises enforcement responsibility, it shall report it to the Office of the Chief Counsel, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590-0001. If appropriate, the Chief Counsel refers the report to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution of the offender.

[Amdt. 107-11, 48 FR 2651, Jan. 20, 1983, as amended by Amdt. 107-22, 55 FR 39978, Oct. 1, 1990; Amdt. 107-24, 56 FR 8621, Feb. 28, 1991; 56 FR 15510, Apr. 17, 1991; Amdt. 107-32, 59 FR 49131, Sept. 26, 1994; Amdt. 107-35, 60 FR 49108, Sept. 21, 1995]

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### § 107.336 Limitation on fines and penalties.

If a State or political subdivision or Indian tribe assesses any fine or penalty determined by the Secretary to be appropriate for a violation concerning a subject listed in § 107.202(a), no additional fine or penalty may be assessed for such violation by any other authority.

[Amdt. 107-24, 56 FR 8624, Feb. 28, 1991]

#### INJUNCTIVE ACTION

### § 107.337 Injunctions generally.

Whenever it appears to the Office of Chief Counsel that a person has engaged, or is engaged, or is about to engage in any act or practice constituting a violation of any provision of the Federal hazardous material transportation law, this subchapter, subchapter C of this chapter, or any exemption, or order issued thereunder, for which the Office of Chief Counsel exercises enforcement responsibility, the Administrator, RSPA, or his delegate, may request the Attorney General to bring an action in the appropriate United States District Court for such relief as is necessary or appropriate, including mandatory or prohibitive injunctive relief, interim equitable relief, and punitive damages as provided by 49 U.S.C. 5122(a).

[Amdt. 107-11, 48 FR 2651, Jan. 20, 1983, as amended by Amdt. 107-32, 59 FR 49131, Sept. 26, 1994]

### § 107.339 Imminent hazards.

Whenever it appears to the Office of the Chief Counsel that there is a substantial likelihood that death, serious illness, or severe personal injury will result from the transportation of a particular hazardous material or hazardous materials container, before a compliance order proceeding or other administrative hearing or formal proceeding to abate the risk of that harm can be completed, the Administrator, RSPA, or his delegate, may bring an action under 49 U.S.C. 5122(b) in the appropriate United States District Court for an order suspending or restricting the transportation of that hazardous material or those containers or for